



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - November 8, 2002

- ***In the West***, the season's first major winter storm is arriving several weeks late, but nonetheless providing much-needed moisture for pastures and winter grains in ***California and the Northwest***, and blanketing the ***Cascades, Sierra Nevada, and northern Rockies*** with autumn's first significant snowfall.
- ***On the Plains***, warmer weather favors renewed winter wheat emergence and development, although soil moisture shortages persist across roughly the ***northwestern half of the region***. However, dry weather on the ***southern Plains*** is promoting an acceleration of cotton, peanut, and sorghum harvesting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather is spurring winter wheat development, although soil moisture remains limited across ***northern portions of Indiana and Ohio*** and much of ***Lower Michigan***. Weather conditions also favor corn and final soybean harvesting, particularly across the previously saturated ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, muddy fields continue to limit ***Delta*** soybean and cotton harvesting, despite a return to dry weather since Tuesday afternoon. Unfavorably wet conditions also persist in the ***western Gulf Coast region***, but a drying trend is gradually increasing irrigation demands and reducing topsoil moisture across ***Florida's citrus areas***.

Outlook: Stormy weather will continue into early next week across the ***western U.S.***, as a series of Pacific storm systems bring gusty winds and periods of locally heavy precipitation to the ***Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States***. Meanwhile, the weekend will begin with warm, mostly dry weather across the ***central and eastern U.S.***, although scattered rain and snow showers are likely along the ***Canadian border***. By early next week, a developing storm over the ***central U.S.*** will increase the chance of rain in the ***Midwest, Ohio Valley, and Southeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 13-17 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***East***, while drier-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***Great Basin, Southwest, southern Plains, and California***. Warmer-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Far West, northern Rockies and Plains, and New England***, while below-normal temperatures are expected along the ***Gulf Coast***.

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